

A. FAMILY RELATIONS

CODE OF HAMMURABI

1. If a man takes a wife and has not executed a marriage contract, that woman is not his wife.
2. If a man has divorced his wife, who has not borne him children, he shall pay her as much money as much money as was given for her bride-price and the marriage portion that she brought from her father's house, and so shall divorce her.
3. If a woman has not been discreet, has gone out, ruined her house, belittled her husband, she shall be drowned.
4. If a man has determined to disinherit his son and has declared before the judge, "I cut off my son," the judge shall inquire into the son's past, and, if the son has not committed a grave crime such as should cut him off from sonship, the father shall not disinherit his son.
5. If a son has struck his father, his hands shall be cut off.

MOSAIC LAW

Exodus, chapter 20

1. Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.
2. Thou shall not commit adultery.

Deuteronomy, chapter 24

1. When a man has taken a wife, and married her and it came to pass that she found no favor in his eyes, because he has found some uncleanness in her, then let him write her a bill of divorcement, and give it in her hand, and send her out of his house.
2. And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be another man's wife.
3. Her former husband, which sent her away, may not take her again to be his wife, after she is defiled.
4. When a man is newly wed, he need not go out on a military expedition, nor shall any public duty be imposed on him. He shall be exempt for one year for the sake of his family, to bring joy to his wife.
5. You shall not violate the rights of the alien or the orphan; nor take the clothing of a widow for a pledge.

B. BODILY INJURY

CODE OF HAMMURABI

1. If a man has knocked out the eye of a nobleman, his eye shall be knocked out.
2. If he has knocked out the eye of a common person or has broken the limb of a common person, he shall pay one mina of silver.
3. If he has broken the limb of a noble, his limb shall be broken.
4. If he has knocked out the eye of a nobleman's servant, or broken the limb of a nobleman's servant, he shall pay half his value in silver.
5. If a surgeon has operated with the bronze lancet on a nobleman for a serious injury, and had cured him, or has removed with a bronze lancet a cataract for a nobleman, and had cured his eye, he shall take ten shekels of silver.
6. If a surgeon has operated with the bronze lancet on a nobleman for a serious injury, and had caused his death, or has removed a cataract for a nobleman with a bronze lancet, and has made him lose his eye, his hands shall be cut off.
7. If the builder has built a house for a man, and has not made the work sound, and the house he built has fallen and caused the death of its owner, that builder should be put to death.
8. If it is the owner's son that is killed, the builder's son shall be put to death.
9. If a man has stolen a child, he shall be put to death.

MOSAIC LAW

Exodus, Chapter 21

1. And if a man smite the eye of his servant, or the eye of his maid, that it perish, he shall let him go free for his eye's sake.
2. And if he smite out his manservant's tooth, or his maidservant's tooth, he shall let him go free for his tooth's sake.
3. If an ox gore a man or woman, that they die, then the ox shall be surely stoned, and his flesh shall not be eaten, but the owner of the ox shall be released from obligation.

MOSAIC LAW

Exodus, Chapter 21 (continued)

4. But if the ox were wont to push with his horn in time past, it has been testified to his owner, and he has not kept him in, but he has killed a man or a woman, the ox shall be stoned, and his owner shall be put to death.

5. If the ox shall push the manservant or a maidservant, he shall give to their master thirty shekels of silver, and the ox shall be stoned.

6. A kidnaper, whether he sells his victim or still has him when caught, shall be put to death.

7. Whoever strikes a man a mortal blow shall be put to death.

C. PROPERTY RIGHTS

CODE OF HAMMURABI

1. If a man has hired a field to cultivate and has not caused any grain to grow on the field, he shall be held responsible for not doing the work on the field and shall pay an average rent.

2. If a man has opened his tunnel for watering, and had left it open, and if the water has flooded his neighbor's field, he shall pay him an average crop.

3. If a man has neglected to strengthen his dike and has not kept his dike strong, and a breach has broken out in his dike, and the waters have flooded the meadow, the man in whose dike the breach has broken out shall restore the grain he has caused to be lost.

4. If a man owes a debt, and he has given his wife, his son, or his daughter as hostage for the money, or has handed over someone to work it off, the hostage shall do the work of the creditor's house, but in the fourth year he shall set them free.

5. If a man has hired a boat or a boatman, and loaded it with corn, wool, oil or dates, or whatever it be, and the boatman has been careless, and sunk the boat, or lost what was in it, the boatman shall restore the boat which he sank, and whatever he lost that was in it.

6. If a man has hired an ox and caused its death, by carelessness or blows, he shall restore ox for ox, to the owner of the ox.

7. If a slave has said to his master, "You are not my master," he shall be brought to his account as his slave, and the master shall cut off his ear.

C. PROPERTY RIGHTS

MOSAIC LAW

Exodus, Chapter 21

1. If you buy a Hebrew servant, six years shall he serve, and in the seventh he shall go free for nothing.

Leviticus, chapter 29

1. And when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly harvest the corners of the field, neither shall you gather the gleaning of your harvest.

2. And you shall not glean the vineyard, neither shall you gather every grape of the vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the stranger.

3. You shall not defraud your neighbor, neither rob him. The wages of him that is hired shall not abide with you all night until the morning.

4. You shall do no unrighteousness in judgment, in weight, or in measure.

5. Just balances, just weights you shall have.

Exodus, chapter 20

1. You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male or female slave, nor his ox or ass, nor anything else that belongs to him.

Source: Translation for Hammurabi's Code in C.H.W. Johns, Babylonian and Assyrian Laws: Contracts and Letters (New York: Scribner's, 1904), p. 44 ff.